

back waist region **154** extends from the crotch region **150** to the back end edge **132**. In general, the longitudinal extent of the waist regions **152**, **154** is related to the distance between the end edges **130** and **132** of the training pant **12** and the crotch region **150**, measured along the side edges **134**. The training pant **12** also includes an inner surface **156** and an opposite outer surface (not shown).

**[0066]** The illustrated training pant **12** includes an absorbent assembly **160** sandwiched between an outer cover **162** and a bodyside liner **164**. The outer cover **162** and liner **164** are desirably longer and wider than the absorbent assembly **160** and bonded together using adhesives, thermal bonds, ultrasonic bonds or other suitable means. Further, the absorbent assembly **160** is disposed on the outer cover **162**, and can be bonded directly thereto using adhesives, thermal bonds, ultrasonic bonds or other suitable means. The liner **164** can be bonded directly to the absorbent assembly **160** as well.

**[0067]** The outer cover **162** can, for instance, include a single layer of film, a woven material, a nonwoven material or another suitable liquid permeable or liquid impermeable material. The outer cover **162** can include a thin, substantially liquid impermeable web or sheet of plastic film such as polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride or similar material. Alternatively, the outer cover **162** can include a nonwoven, fibrous web that has been suitably constructed and arranged to be substantially liquid impermeable. Still alternatively, the outer cover **162** can include a layered or laminated material, such as a thermally bonded plastic film and nonwoven web composite or a stretch bonded laminate.

**[0068]** The outer cover **162** can suitably include a material that is substantially liquid impermeable. The outer cover **162** can be provided by a single layer of liquid impermeable material, or more suitably include a multi-layered laminate structure in which at least one of the layers is liquid impermeable. In particular aspects, the outer layer can suitably provide a relatively cloth-like texture to the wearer. A suitable liquid impermeable film for use as a liquid impermeable inner layer, or a single layer liquid impermeable outer cover **162** is a 0.025 millimeter (1.0 mil) polyethylene film commercially available from Edison Plastics Inc. of South Plainfield, N.J., U.S.A. Alternatively, the outer cover **162** can include a woven or non-woven fibrous web layer that has been totally or partially constructed or treated to impart the desired levels of liquid impermeability to selected regions that are adjacent or proximate the absorbent assembly.

**[0069]** The outer cover **162** can also be stretchable, and in some aspects it can be elastomeric. For example, such an outer cover material can include a 0.3 osy polypropylene spunbond that is necked 60 percent in the transverse direction **142** and creped 60 percent in the longitudinal direction **140**, laminated with 3 grams per square meter (gsm) Bostik-Findley H2525A styrene-isoprene-styrene based adhesive to 8 gsm PEBAX 2533 film with 20 percent TiO<sub>2</sub> concentrate. Reference is made to U.S. Pat. No. 5,883,028, issued to Morman et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,116,662 issued to Morman and U.S. Pat. No. 5,114,781 issued to Morman, the contents of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference to the extent that they are consistent (i.e., not in conflict) herewith, for additional information regarding suitable outer cover materials.

**[0070]** The bodyside liner **164** can be any soft, flexible, porous sheet that passes liquids therethrough. The liner **164** can include, for example, a nonwoven web or sheet of wet strength tissue paper, a spunbonded, meltblown or bonded-

carded web composed of synthetic polymer filaments, such as polypropylene, polyethylene, polyesters or the like, or a web of natural polymer filaments such as rayon or cotton. The liner **164** has a pore size that readily allows the passage therethrough of liquids, such as urine and other body exudates. The liner **164** can be selectively embossed or perforated with discrete slits or holes extending therethrough. Optionally, the web or sheet can be treated with a surfactant to aid in liquid transfer. One suitable liner material is a wettable spunbonded polypropylene web produced by the methods and apparatus described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,340,563 issued Jul. 20, 1982, and 4,405,297 issued Sep. 23, 1983, to Appel et al., the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference to the extent that they are consistent (i.e., not in conflict) herewith.

**[0071]** Alternatively, the bodyside liner **164** can also be stretchable, and in some aspects it can be elastomeric. For instance, the liner **164** can be a non-woven, spunbond polypropylene fabric composed of about 2 to 3 denier fibers formed into a web having a basis weight of about 12 gsm that is necked approximately 60 percent. Strands of about 9 gsm KRATON G2760 elastomer material placed eight strands per inch (2.54 cm) can be adhered to the necked spunbond material to impart elasticity to the spunbond fabric. The fabric can be surface treated with an operative amount of surfactant, such as about 0.6 percent AHCOVEL Base N62 surfactant, available from ICI Americas of Wilmington, Del., U.S.A. Other suitable materials can be extensible biaxially stretchable materials, such as a neck stretched/creped spunbond. Reference is made to U.S. Pat. No. 6,552,245, issued Apr. 22, 2003, to Roessler et al., the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference to the extent that they are consistent (i.e., not in conflict) herewith.

**[0072]** The absorbent assembly **160** can be in a variety of shapes and configurations as are known in the art, such as rectangular, hourglass shaped, I-shaped, and the like. The absorbent assembly **160** has opposed lateral edges **161** and opposed longitudinal ends **163**. The lateral edges **161** and longitudinal ends **163** together make up the perimeter **165** of the absorbent assembly **160**.

**[0073]** The absorbent assembly **160** can include various absorbent materials, such as an air-formed batt of cellulosic fibers (i.e., wood pulp fluff) or a coform material composed of a mixture of cellulosic fibers and synthetic polymer fibers. The absorbent assembly **160** can also include compounds to increase its absorbency, such as 0-95 weight percent of organic or inorganic high-absorbency materials, which are typically capable of absorbing at least about 15 and desirably more than 25 times their weight in water. Suitable high-absorbency materials are described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,699,823 issued Oct. 13, 1987, to Kellenberger et al. and U.S. Pat. No. 5,147,343 issued Sep. 15, 1992, to Kellenberger, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference to the extent that they are consistent (i.e., not in conflict) herewith. High-absorbency materials are available from various commercial vendors. The absorbent assembly **160** can also include tissue layers or acquisition or distribution layers to help maintain the integrity of fibrous absorbents or transport liquids (not shown).

**[0074]** The absorbent assembly **160** is suitably compressible, conformable, and capable of absorbing and retaining liquid body exudates released by the wearer. For example, the absorbent assembly **160** can include a matrix of absorbent fibers, and more suitably cellulosic fluff, such as wood pulp fluff, and superabsorbent particles. One suitable pulp fluff is